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Subject: Reading 32-bit complex numbers in IDL (16-bit real / 16-bit imaginary)

Posted by [Waqas A. Qazi](#) on Sun, 07 Aug 2011 12:01:34 GMT

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Hi,

I couldn't find a discussion of this specific problem on the group, so I am posting it here in hope of a solution.

I have complex data in a binary file, with each value comprising of 4 bytes (32 bits), such that the 32-bit complex number consists of 16-bit real and 16-bit imaginary. I could use define a complex array in IDL and then read the data using the readu command, however the "complex" format in IDL is a 2\*32-bit definition, i.e. 32-bit real and 32-bit imaginary. How can I read the 16-bit real - 16-bit imaginary complex number in IDL?

Thanks,  
Waqas.

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